SFG 2023 | LEVEL 1 | Test #7 – Solutions | ForumIAS

Q.1) The fundamental object of Panchayati Raj system is to ensure which among the following?
1. People's participation in development
2. Political accountability
3. Democratic decentralization
4. Financial mobilization
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 2 and 4 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Grass-roots democracy was established in India not to ensure any political accountability, but to ensure **citizen's participation in governance** and development leading to democratic decentralization. So, the term **"democratic decentralization"** is an appropriate replacement for the term "political accountability". Moreover, political accountability already existed in the villages by way of elections to State legislatures.
Financial mobilization was never the basis for the establishment of Panchayati raj. Local financial mobilization (by way of octroi taxes etc.) is the outcome of the establishment of the PRIs, not its objective. In fact, only few states have devolved financial powers to their PRIs.
Source) UPSC CSE 2015

Q.2) What was the intention behind inclusion of Articles 371 to 371-J in the Constitution of India?
1. To meet the aspirations of the people of backward regions of the states
2. To deal with the disturbed law and order condition in some parts of the states
3. To deal with the border issues with neighboring countries in North-Western India.
4. To protect the cultural and economic interests of the tribal people of the states
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
a) 1, 3 and 4 only
b) 1, 2 and 3 only
c) 1, 2 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Articles 371 to 371-J in Part XXI of the constitution contain special provisions for twelve states viz., Maharashtra, Gujarat, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Karnataka**.** Originally, the constitution did not make any special provisions for these states. They have been incorporated by the various subsequent amendments made in the context of reorganization of the states or conferment of statehood on the Union Territories. **The intention behind adding special provisions to the constitution are following:**
1) **To meet the aspirations of the people of backward regions of the states**
2) **To protect the cultural and economic interests of the tribal people of the states**
3) **To deal with the disturbed law and order condition in some parts of the states**
4) **To protect the interests of the local people of the states. Hence Option 1, 2 and 4 is correct.**
Option 3 is *incorrect*: To deal with border issues in North-Western India is not one of the reasons behind providing special provisions to these states. If we see the states that are provided for the special provisions under the part, only a part of Gujarat can be considered as part of North-Western India. But in Gujarat also

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the rationale behind providing such special provision is to ensure equitable development throughout the state, not to deal with border issue.
Source: Indian polity by M Laxmikanth 6th edition pdf. Chapter name- Union and its territory. Page no- 809 and 810.

Q.3) Consider the following statements with reference to the special provisions regarding Manipur:
1. The President can create a committee of the Manipur Legislative Assembly consisting of the members elected from the Hill Areas of the Manipur.
2. It is the responsibility of Governor to submit an annual report regarding the administration of the hill areas of Manipur to the President.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Articles 371 to 371-J in Part XXI of the constitution contain special provisions for twelve states viz., Maharashtra, Gujarat, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Karnataka.
Statement 1 is correct: Article 371-C makes the special provisions for Manipur to meet the aspirations of the people of backward regions of the states. **Under article 371-C the President is authorized to provide for the creation of a committee of the Manipur Legislative Assembly consisting of the members elected from the Hill Areas of the state.** The President can direct that the Governor shall have special responsibility to secure the proper functioning of that committee.
Statement 2 is correct: Under article 371-C the Governor has responsibility to submit an annual report to the President regarding the administration of the Hill Areas of Manipur. The Central Government can give directions to the State Government as to the administration of the Hill Areas.
Source: Indian polity by M Laxmikanth 6th edition pdf. Chapter name- SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR SOME STATES. Page no- 813.

Q.4) Arrange the following states in a chronological order according to the year of formation as a state?
1. Nagaland
2. Tripura
3. Himachal Pradesh
4. Mizoram
Which of the following option given below is correct?
a) 1-2-3-4
b) 1-3-2-4
c) 3-1-2-4
d) 3-2-1-4

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
The political map of India underwent continuous changes after the large-scale reorganization of the states in 1956 due to the pressure of popular agitations and political conditions. The demand for the creation of

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some more states on the basis of language or cultural homogeneity resulted in the bifurcation of existing states.

Option 1: The State of Nagaland was formed by taking the Naga Hills and Tuensang area out of the state of Assam **in 1963.** This was done to satisfy the movement of the hostile Nagas. However, before giving Nagaland the status of the 16th state of the Indian Union, it was placed under the control of governor of Assam in 1961.

Option 3: On the recommendation of the Shah Commission (1966), the Punjabi-speaking areas were constituted into the unilingual state of Punjab and the Hindi-speaking areas were constituted into the State of Haryana and the hill areas were merged with the adjoining union territory of Himachal Pradesh. **In 1971, the union territory of Himachal Pradesh was elevated to the status of a state (18th state of the Indian Union).**

Option 2: In 1972, in Northeast India the two union territories of **Manipur and Tripura and the sub-state of Meghalaya got statehood** and the two union territories of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh (originally known as North-East Frontier Agency–NEFA) came into being. With this, the number of states of the Indian Union increased to 21 (Manipur 19th, Tripura 20th and Meghalaya 21st).

Option 4: In 1987, three new States of **Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa** came into being as the 23rd, 24th and 25th states of the Indian Union respectively. The union territory of Mizoram was conferred the status of a full state as a sequel to the signing of a memorandum of settlement (Mizoram Peace Accord) in 1986 between the Central government and the Mizo National Front, ending the two-decade-old insurgency.

Source: Indian polity by M Laxmikanth 6th edition pdf. Chapter name- UNION and its TERRITORY. Page no- 149 to 152.

Q.5) With reference to recent technological advancement in the country, which one of the following statements correctly describe 'Digital Embossing Technology'?

a) It is a technology used to develop Silicon semiconductors through 3D printing process.
b) It is a technology used in designing and developing Braille Maps for Visually challenged students.
c) It is a method of creating a three-dimensional object layer-by-layer using a computer created design.
d) It is a type of printing that involves storing digital information on the object through embossing technique.

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Digital Embossing Technology is a novel digital printing process, **enables the structuring of surfaces**. This means that the feel of the surface now also corresponds to the optical design. In digital embossing, a transparent medium is printed in a layer of uncured UV paint. The resulting physical and chemical reactions produce a deep structure. Digital embossing **eliminates the need for printing plates, molds, chemicals, and solvents, emitting no pollutants or waste** and reduces overall energy use.

Digital Embossing Technology has been introduced, designed and implemented for the **first time in India by National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO). Visually challenged students from all over the country will have access soon to Braille Maps designed and developed using Digital Embossing Technology**. The maps produced using this technology are not only useful for high-speed production of the maps but can also produce Braille Maps that can be used by more people for years together.

Knowledge Base:

National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO): It was established in 1997. It is a subordinate department under the **Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology.**

Its functions include:

1) Compilation of the National Atlas of India in Hindi, English and other regional languages

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2) Preparation of thematic maps based on socio-economic, physical, cultural, environmental, demographic and other issues
3) Preparation of maps/atlases for visually impaired
4) Digital mapping and training using Remote sensing, GPS and GIS technology
5) Training and Research & Development.

Source: Digital Embossing Technology and NATMO: Visually challenged students will have access to user-friendly durable Braille maps using advanced technology-ForumIAS Blog
Digital Embossing (adler-coatings.com)

Q.6) Consider the following statements with reference to the difference between the union of India and territory of India:
a) Union of India includes union territories and territories that may be acquired while the territory of India includes only states.
b) Union of India includes states and union territories while the territory of India includes territories that may be acquired.
c) Union of India includes the states that are already in existence while territory of India includes states that are newly established.
d) Union of India includes only states while the territory of India includes not only the states but also union territories and territories that may be acquired.

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The names of states and union territories and their territorial extent is mentioned in the first schedule of the Constitution. At present, there are 28 states and 8 union territories.
According to Article 1, the territory of India can be classified into three categories:
1) Territories of the states
2) Union territories
3) Territories that may be acquired by the Government of India at any time.

The 'Territory of India' is a wider expression than the 'Union of India' because the **Union of India includes only states while the Territory of India includes not only the states, but also union territories and territories that may be acquired by the Government of India at any future time.** The states are the members of the federal system and share a distribution of powers with the Centre. The union territories and the acquired territories are directly administered by the Central government.
Source: Indian polity by M Laxmikanth pdf. Page no-140.

Q.7) With reference to Panchayat Samiti in India, consider the following statements:
1. It is a local government body at the tehsil or Taluka level in India.
2. It is mandatory for every Indian state to constitute a Panchayati samiti at the intermediate level.
3. District magistrate acts as ex-officio chairman of the panchayat samiti.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 1 only
c) 1 and 2 only
d) 3 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

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The Panchayati Raj system is the first tier or level of democratic government. The Panchs and the Gram Panchayat are answerable to the Gram Sabha because it is the members of the Gram Sabha who elected them.

Statement 1 is correct: The Janpad Panchayat or the Panchayat Samiti is created at the Tehsil or taluka level. The Panchayat Samiti has many Gram Panchayats under it. Panchayat Samiti is the middle tier of the Panchayati Raj System. These are named differently in different States.

Statement 2 is *incorrect*: According to the Constitution, it is mandatory for every state to constitute panchayats at village, intermediate and district levels. However, there is an exception that, **states with population less than 20Lakh may not be required to constitute panchayat at intermediate level.**

Statement 3 is *incorrect*: Chairperson of the Panchayat at the intermediate level **shall be elected by the elected members of Panchayat samiti** from amongst the members. **(Hence, District Magistrate is not the ex-officio chairman)**

Source: Class VI social and political life. Chapter name- Panchayati raaj. Page no-47 and 48.
https://www.indiatimes.com/lifestyle/who-is-the-head-of-panchayat-samiti-525570.html
https://www.mea.gov.in/Images/pdf1/Part9.pdf

Q.8) Measuring land and keeping land records at village level is the main work of which of the following?
a) Patwari
b) Sarpanch
c) Tehsildar
d) Panchayat Secretary

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer

Measuring land and keeping land records is the main work of the Patwari. The Patwari is known by different names in different states - in some villages, such officers are called **Lekhpal**, in others **Kanungo or Karamchari or Village Officer**, etc. Each **Patwari is responsible for a group of villages**. The **Patwari maintains and updates the records of the village**. The Patwari is also responsible for organizing the collection of land revenue from the farmers and providing information to the government about the crops grown in this area.

All states in India are divided into districts. For managing matters relating to land, these districts are further subdivided. These sub-divisions of a district are known by different names such as tehsil, taluka, etc. At **the head is the District Collector and under him/her are the revenue officers, also known as tehsildars. They have to hear disputes. They also supervise the work of the Patwaris and ensure that records are properly kept** and land revenue is collected.

Source: NCERT Class VI: Social and Political Life Chapter 6: RURAL ADMINISTRATION

Q.9) Consider the following statements with reference to the Panchayati Raj Institutions in India:
1. The term Gram Sabha has not been defined in the constitution.
2. No more than three villages can be covered under a Panchayat.
3. One of the powers of Gram Sabha is finalization of list of below poverty line people in Panchayat area.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 2 only
b) 3 only
c) 1 and 2 only
d) 1 and 3 only

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Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Gram Sabha is the fulcrum of the Panchayati Raj and village development. People use the forum of the Gram Sabha to discuss local governance and development, and make need- based plans for the village.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The term **Gram Sabha is defined** in the **Constitution of India** under Article **243(b).** It is a permanent body. **Gram Sabha is the Sabha of the electorate**. All other institutions of the Panchayati Raj like the Gram Panchayat, Block Panchayat and Zilla Parishad are constituted by elected representatives. The **Gram Sabha is a meeting of all adults who live in the area covered by a Panchayat**. **Anyone who is 18 years old or more and who has the right to vote** is a member of the Gram Sabha.

Statement 2 is incorrect: There is **no specific bar on number of villages in a Panchayat**. It can **even be one village or number of villages** under a Panchayat. Every **Village Panchayat is divided into wards, i.e. smaller areas**. Each ward elects a representative who is known as the Ward Member (Panch). **All the members of the Gram Sabha also elect a Sarpanch who is the Panchayat President**. The Ward Panchs and the Sarpanch form the Gram Panchayat. The Gram Panchayat is elected for five years.

Statement 3 is correct: Constitution mentions that **Gram Sabha exercises such powers and performs such functions at the village level as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide**. For instance, they approve of the plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development before such plans, programmes and projects are taken up for implementation by the Panchayat at the village level. It **is also responsible for the identification or selection of persons as beneficiaries under the poverty alleviation, preparing list of people Below Poverty Line** and other programmes.

Source: NCERT Class VI: Social and Political Life Chapter 5: Panchayati Raj

Q.10) Recently, terms like 'Held to Maturity', 'Available for Sale' and 'Fair Value Through Profit and Loss account' were seen in news. They are related to-

a) Fixed Deposit accounts of Non-Resident Indians in Schedule Banks
b) Insurance Products underwritten by a private Company
c) Registered Accounts of Foreign Portfolio Investors at SEBI
d) Investment Portfolios of Indian Banks

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Reserve Bank of India proposed a new investment category for banks—**fair value through profit and loss** (FVTPL) account. This is a part of its initiatives to align lenders investment portfolio regulations with the global accounting standards.

Currently, the **Investment Portfolios of Banks** at present are **classified under three categories**: **held to maturity (HTM), held for trading (HFT) and available for sale** (AFS).

1) **Held to maturity (HTM):** RBI said debt instruments with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturity, with the intent of holding till maturity, shall now be classified as HTM. Corporate bonds have also been allowed to be held under HTM, which was not the case earlier.
2) **Available for Sale**: Debt instruments held by a bank till maturity or sold before maturity would be eligible for AFS. Equity instruments will also be classified under AFS.
3) **Fair Value Through Profit and Loss account**: It will be the residual category where all investments that do not qualify for inclusion in HTM or AFS shall be categorized. This category can have investments such as securitisation receipts (SRs), mutual funds, alternate investment funds, equity shares, derivatives (including those undertaken for hedging), among others.

Source: FVTPL Account: Banks may get a new investment category -ForumIAS Blog

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Q.11) The Government enacted, the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act in 1996. Which one of the following is **not** identified as its objective?

a) To provided self-governance
b) To recognize traditional rights
c) To create autonomous regions in tribal areas
d) To free tribal people from exploitation

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The PESA Act was enacted to extend the provisions of 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts to the Fifth Schedule areas. Thus, it was meant to provide institutions of local self-governance in the Scheduled Areas and to recognize the traditional rights of the tribals. The provisions of this Act address some of the most complex problems of exploitation and marginalization of the tribals.

The act did not have any provisions of creating any autonomous regions.

Source: UPSC CSE 2013

Q.12) Consider the following Committees and their key recommendations with reference to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India:

Committee	Recommendation
1. Balwant Rai Mehta Committee	Creation of Mandal Panchayat
2. Ashok Mehta Committee	Three-tier system
3. G.V.K. Rao Committee	Creation of post of District Development Commissioner
4. L M Singhvi Committee	Constitutional Recognition to Panchayats

How many of the above given pairs are correctly matched?

a) One pair only
b) Two pairs only
c) Three pairs only
d) All the four pairs

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

To fulfill the vision of **Article 40 i.e. 'organization of village panchayats'**; the government took several steps including constituting various committees to give panchayats a structure. This ultimately **culminated in the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment**, establishing Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India.

Pair 1 is incorrect: In January 1957, the Government of India appointed a committee to examine the working of the Community Development Programme (1952) and the National Extension Service (1953) and to suggest measures for their better working. The chairman of this committee was **Balwant Rai G Mehta.** It recommended establishment of a **three-tier panchayati raj system**–gram panchayat at the village level, panchayat samiti at the block level and zila parishad at the district level. **Mandal Panchayat was recommended by Ashok Mehta committee.**

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Pair 2 is incorrect: In December 1977, the Government appointed a committee on Panchayati Raj Institutions under the chairmanship of Ashok Mehta. Its **key recommendation was that the three-tier system of Panchayati raj should be replaced by the two-tier system,** that is, zila parishad at the district level, and below it, the mandal panchayat consisting of a group of villages with a total population of 15,000 to 20,000.

Pair 3 is correct: The Committee to review the existing Administrative Arrangements for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Programmes under the chairmanship of G.V.K. Rao was appointed by the Planning Commission in 1985. One of its **key recommendations was the creation of the post of District Development Commissioner**. And he should act as the chief executive officer of the Zila Parishad and should be in charge of all the development departments at the district level.

Pair 4 is correct: In 1986, Rajiv Gandhi government appointed a committee to prepare a concept paper on 'Revitalisation of Panchayati Raj Institutions for Democracy and Development' under the chairmanship of L.M. Singhvi. It **recommended that the Panchayati Raj institutions should be constitutionally recognised, protected and preserved.** For this purpose, a new chapter should be added in the Constitution of India. This will make their identity and integrity reasonably and substantially inviolate. It also suggested constitutional provisions to ensure regular, free and fair elections to the Panchayati Raj bodies.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth, 6th Edition, Chapter-38

Q.13) Consider the following statements with reference to the State Election Commissioner:

1. S/he is consulted by state Government during the formation of Election Tribunal.
2. The conditions of service and tenure of his office are determined by the State Legislature.
3. S/he cannot be removed from the office except in the manner prescribed for the removal of a judge of the High Court.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

a) 2 only
b) 3 only
c) 1 and 2 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **Constitution of India vests in the State Election Commission, consisting of a State Election Commissioner, the superintendence, direction and control** of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of **all elections to the Panchayats and the Municipalities** under the **Articles 243K, and 243ZA.**

Statement 1 is correct: Some of the states have provided for a provision to setup an Election Tribunal at the State level to take up election related disputes. In this regard, for example in Punjab, an **Election Tribunal is constituted by the State Government in consultation with the** State Election Commissioner for each district or part thereof, at the District or Sub-Divisional Headquarters.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The co**nditions of SEC's service and tenure of office are determined by the governor.** His conditions of service cannot be varied to his disadvantage after his/her appointment.

Statement 3 is correct: The **State Election Commissioner** has the status, salary and allowance of a Judge of a High Court and **cannot be removed from office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of a High Court**. The **provisions of Article 243K** of the Constitution, which provides for setting up of SECs, are **almost identical to those of Article 324** related to the Election Commission.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth, 6th Edition, Chapter-38

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Q.14) The PESA Act, 1996 extends the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats to which of the following groups of states?
a) Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Gujarat
b) Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram and Nagaland
c) Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya and Assam
d) Tamil Nādu, Rajasthan, Bihar and Nagaland

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
The **provisions of Part IX of the constitution relating to the Panchayats were not applicable to the Fifth Schedule areas**. However, the Parliament is allowed to extend these provisions to such areas, subject to such exceptions and modifications as it may specify. Under this provision, the **Parliament has enacted the "Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act", 1996**, popularly known as the PESA Act or the Extension Act. At present, **ten states have Fifth Schedule Areas**. These are: **Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan**. All the ten states have enacted requisite compliance legislations by amending the respective Panchayati Raj Acts.
Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth, 6th Edition, Chapter-38

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding 'Account Aggregator'(AAs):
1. It is a non-banking financial company that facilitates sharing of financial information from one financial institution to other in a real-time.
2. The financial data cannot be shared by the Account Aggregators without the consent of the individual.
3. The license for Account Aggregators (AAs) is issued by the Security and Exchange Board of India.
4. They can store the customer's financial data for one year from the collection period.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1, 2 and 4 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
Complementing the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, India recently unveiled the **account aggregator (AA) network** to overcome the challenges of access to micro-credit for individuals and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
Statement 1 is correct: An **Account Aggregator** (AA) is a type of RBI regulated entity (with an **NBFC-AA license**) that helps an individual securely and digitally access and **share information from one financial institution** they have an account with to any other regulated financial institution in the AA network. It facilitates sharing of **financial information in a real-time** and data-blind manner between regulated entities.
Statement 2 is correct: Privacy protection principles is ingrained in the **Account Aggregator (AA) network**. It requires the individual's permission to share data with financial institution. The data shared on the AA network is **end-to-end encrypted**. It is encrypted by the sender and can be decrypted only by the recipient.
Statement 3 is incorrect: The licence for Account Aggregators (AAs) is issued by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and not by SEBI.**

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Statement 4 is incorrect: Account Aggregator **are not allowed to store, process, and sell** the customer's data. These design principles ensure that **ownership of the data lies with individuals and is not monetized.** So, no conflict of interest arises when data is shared across the AA platform.
Source: Account aggregators are ready to widen Indian access to credit -ForumIAS Blog
Account aggregators: These banks have joined it, how it will benefit customers (livemint.com)
Five ways the Account Aggregator framework will benefit customers | Business News,The Indian Express

Q.16) Consider the following statements with reference to the District Planning Committee (DPC) in India:
1. It consolidate the plans prepared by both panchayats and municipalities in the district.
2. The provisions of the composition of such committees are made by the respective State legislature.
3. 50 per cent of the members of DPC are nominated by the Governor of the respective state.
Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
The **formation of District Planning Committees (DPCs) is mandated by the Article 243ZD of the 74th Amendment of the Constitution**. District Planning Committees serve as a link between Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies.
Statement 1 is correct: District Planning Committees (DPCs) consolidate the plans prepared by panchayats and municipalities in the district, and **to prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole**. Every District Planning Committee in **preparing the draft development plan, deals with matters of common interest between the Panchayats and the Municipalities including spatial planning, sharing of water and other physical and natural resources,** the integrated development of infrastructure and environmental conservation. It also discusses the extent and type of available resources whether financial or otherwise.
Statement 2 is correct: It is **the State legislature that may make provisions with respect to the composition of district planning committees**. Furthermore, state legislature can also make provisions with respect to the manner of election of members of such committees, the functions of such committees in relation to district planning and the manner of the election of the chairpersons of such committees.
Statement 3 is *incorrect*: The **four-fifths of the members of a district planning committee are elected by the elected members of the District Panchayat and municipalities** in the district from amongst themselves. **(Through this we can say that, the governor does not nominate 50% of the members to DPC).** The representation of these members in the committee is in proportion to the ratio between the rural and urban populations in the district.
Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth, 6th Edition, Chapter-39

Q.17) Which among the following are the sources of income for the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in India?
1. Property Tax
2. Payment for Public Utilities
3. Loan from financial institutions
4. Excise Duty

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 2 and 3 only
b) 1 and 4 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Option 1 is correct: Property tax is the amount that is **paid by the landowner to the municipal corporation or the local government** for his/her area. The tax must be paid every year. Property, office buildings, and residential homes that are rented out to third parties are considered real estate assets. Property tax is charged by the government on all tangible real estate that an individual owns. These real estate assets could include residential homes, office buildings and premises rented out to third parties. **It also known as house tax.**
Option 2 is correct: The non-tax revenue for local government comes from municipal properties, fees and fines, royalty, profits and dividends, interest, user charges and miscellaneous receipts**. The user charges (i.e., payment for public utilities) include water charges, sanitation charges, sewerage charges and so on.**
Option 3 is correct: The urban **local bodies raise loans from** the state government as well as **financial institutions** to meet their capital expenditure. They can borrow from the financial institutions or other bodies only with the approval of the state government.
Option 4 is incorrect: Excise duty was a form of indirect tax that was levied by the Central Government of India for the production, sale, or license of certain goods prior to GST. However, Excise **duty charges continue to be in force for alcohol and narcotics which are collected by state governments and not local government.**

Q.18) Consider the following statements with reference to the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 or PESA Act:
1. It confers powers to the Gram Sabha to ensure proper functioning of Panchayats.
2. Scheduled Tribes have been ensured at least 50 percent reservation of the seats at every Panchayat in Scheduled Areas.
3. At intermediate or district levels Governor can nominate such Scheduled Tribes which have no representation in the Panchayat.
Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
The **provisions of Part IX of the constitution relating to the Panchayats are not applicable to the Fifth Schedule areas**. However, the **Parliament may extend these provisions to such areas, subject to such exceptions and modifications as it may specify**. Under this provision, the Parliament has enacted the "Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act", 1996, popularly known as the PESA Act or the Extension Act.
Statement 1 is correct: The **PESA Act conferred the powers to Gram Sabha, whereas state legislature has given an advisory role to ensure the proper functioning of Panchayats and Gram Sabhas.** The objective

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is to provide self-rule for the bulk of the tribal population, to have village governance with participatory democracy and to make the Gram Sabha a nucleus of all activities.

Statement 2 is correct: According to the PESA Act, 1996, the reservation of seats in the Scheduled Areas at every Panchayat shall be in proportion to the population of the communities in that Panchayat for whom the reservation is sought to be given under Part IX of the Constitution**. It has also provided that the reservation for the Scheduled Tribes shall not be less than one-half of the total number of seats.** According to the act, all seats of Chairpersons of Panchayats at all levels in Scheduled Areas shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The state government (not the governor) may nominate such Scheduled Tribes which have no representation in the Panchayat at the intermediate level or the Panchayat at the district level. But such nomination shall not exceed one-tenth of the total members to be elected in that Panchayat.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth, 6th Edition, Chapter-38

Q.19) Consider the following statements with reference to the State Finance Commission:

1. It functions under the guidance of the Union Finance Commission.
2. It is constituted under the 74th Amendment Act of the Constitution.
3. They recommend principles for the devolution of funds to both the Panchayats and Municipalities.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

a) 3 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

A State Finance Commission reviews a state's panchayats' financial situation and provides recommendations to the governor.

Statement 1 is incorrect: State Finance Commission is created under Article 243-I of the Indian Constitution which says that the Governor of a State shall establish a Finance Commission to review the financial position of the Panchayats. It does **not work under the guidance of Finance Commission** established under **Article 280**.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The **74th Amendment Act** added a new Part IX-A to the Constitution of India. This part is entitled as 'The Municipalities' and consists of provisions from Articles **243-P to 243-ZG.** On the other hand, **73rd Amendment act** added a new Part-IX to the Indian Constitution. This section is titled 'The Panchayats' and it **contains provisions from Articles 243 to 243 O. The established of State Finance Commission is done under the Article 243-I, and thus it comes under 73rd Amendment.**

Statement 3 is correct: The **functions of a State Finance Commission are identical to those of the Central Finance Commission.** It distributes state resources to Panchayati Raj institutions at all three levels in the form of taxes, duties, and levies to be collected by the state and local governments. State Finance Commission **give recommendations on the principles which should govern the distribution between the State and the Panchayats of the net proceeds of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees leviable by the State.** It also oversees the finances and suggests principles for devolution of funds for municipalities.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth, 6th Edition, Chapter-39

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Q.20) In the context of Glassgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land Use, consider the following statements:

Statement 1: India has declined to sign the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use that aims to "halt deforestation" by 2030.

Statement 2: The initiative puts a mandatory limit on individual country to increase forest coverage area by 10,000 Sq Km annually.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

a) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct and Statement 2 is the correct explanation of Statement 1

b) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct and Statement 2 is not the correct explanation of Statement 1

c) Statement 1 is correct but Statement 2 is not correct

d) Statement 1 is not correct but Statement 2 is correct

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

India at UNFCCC (COP 26) declined to join Deforestation declaration, this has been followed by India declining joining several such international platforms related to climate change.

Statement 1 is correct: India did not sign the **Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use** – an ambitious declaration initiated by the United Kingdom to "**halt deforestation" and land degradation by 2030.** The declaration has over 105 signatories including the UK, US, Russia and China. **India, Argentina, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and South Africa are the only G20 countries that did not sign the declaration.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: **Declaration on Forests and Land Use** committed to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 by strengthening their efforts to conserve and restore forests and other terrestrial ecosystems and accelerate their restoration. T**here is no mandatory limit on any country under the initiative.**

India did not sign the **Declaration on Forests and Land Use** as it objected as the "**trade" being interlinked to climate change and forest issues** in the agreement. India said, "The declaration interlinks trade to climate change and forest issues. **Trade falls under the WTO and should not be brought under climate change declarations.** We had asked the word "trade" to be removed, but they did not agree. So, we have not signed the declaration."

Source: Forests declaration: India reads fine print, chooses to stay away | India News,The Indian Express

Why India is unwilling to discuss forests at the international fora" published in Down to earth-ForumIAS Blog

What COP26 does for forests and what to look for in 2022 | IUCN

Q.21) Local self-government can be best explained as an exercise in

a) Federalism

b) Democratic decentralization

c) Administrative delegation

d) Direct democracy

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Local self-government can be best explained as an exercise in democratic decentralization.

Democratic decentralization helps to further democratize local self-government to enable it to enjoy more authority, shoulder greater responsibility, take more initiative and experience greater autonomy in the management of the affairs of the local area.

Source) UPSC CSE 2017

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Q.22) With reference to local self-governance in India, consider the following statements:
1. The constitution does not confer any inherent taxation powers on the local bodies.
2. The subject of Local governance falls under the Concurrent legislative jurisdiction under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
3. Powers and functions of Gram Sabha are clearly mentioned in the Constitution.
Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 2 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Local governance refers to institutions involving locals at the levels of villages and cities in order to take care of day-to-day administration related to running an area smoothly, such as health services, roads, waste disposal, water provision, etc. Local governance institutions were given constitutional status in India through the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts of 1992.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Panchayati raj system (system of local governance)** was given **constitutional sanction**, through the **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts of 1992**. While the constitution makes some provisions mandatory for all panchayats in all states, some provisions are voluntary and have been left to the discretion of the state legislatures to decide as they see fit, for panchayats in their area. One such matter is the matter of Finances of a Panchayat. **The constitution does not confer any particular tax raising powers on the Panchayats.** It is for the state legislatures to decide which taxes the panchayats in that state are eligible to levy and collect. **Hence this statement is correct.**

Panchayats, in general have been given the power to raise finances through taxation and levy of local user fees and penalties, through the state Acts by which they are established. Their finances are also supplemented through grants by the state and central governments.

Statement 2 is incorrect: India is a federal polity in its working. This means there is a **distribution of power** among various levels of governance - like national, state, and local. So, to clarify the roles, responsibilities, authorities and limits of various levels of government, our **constitution divided various subjects** which could be legislated upon into **3 lists - Union, State & Concurrent**, placed in the **7th Schedule** to the constitution. The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment acts of 1992, **placed local governance in the State (not the Concurrent) List**. Thus, **matters related to local governance (both rural and urban)** are placed under the **legislative competence of the state** (i.e., that the State Legislature makes laws on matters deciding about various issues related to local government). Hence this statement is **incorrect.**

Statement 3 is incorrect. The act provides for a Gram Sabha as the foundation of the Panchayati raj system. It is a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls of a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level. Thus, it is a village assembly consisting of all the registered voters in the area of a panchayat. **It may exercise such powers and perform such functions at the village level as the legislature of a state determines.** Empowering the Gram Sabhas could have been a powerful weapon for transparency, accountability and for involvement of the marginalized sections. However, a number of the State Acts have not spelt the powers of Gram Sabhas nor have any procedures been laid down for the functioning of these bodies or penalties for the officials

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth, 5th edition, Ch-38, Pg-38.1, 38.2, 38.8

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Q.23) With reference to the local governance in India, consider the following statements:
1. The provisions of Part IX do not apply to the Union Territories.
2. The President can make exceptions to decide which provisions of Part IX apply to Scheduled Areas.
Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) neither 1 nor 2

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is incorrect: Part IX of the constitution was introduced by the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**, to give constitutional status to local governance institutions in rural areas. **The provisions of this Part are applicable to the Union territories.** But the President may direct that they would apply to a Union territory subject to such exceptions and modifications as he/she may specify.
Statement 2 is incorrect: The **provisions relating** to **local governance** may be **modified and applied partly to UTs** and **Scheduled areas**. However, the **authority** on whose **discretion** this rests is **different in both cases**. Hence this statement is **incorrec**t.
While it is the President who decides which provisions and with what modifications are applicable to UTs, **it is the Parliament, which decides which provisions and with what modifications** are applicable to **Scheduled Areas**. It is in pursuance to this power, that the Parliament enacted the **Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA).**
Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth, 5th edition, Ch-38, Pg-38.11

Q.24) With reference to the Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC), consider the following statements:
1. The Constitution makes it mandatory for States to set up MPCs in Metropolitan areas.
2. It consists of members from both urban as well as rural local bodies.
3. The Governor can make provision with respect to the functions of MPC in relation to planning and coordination for the metropolitan area.
Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
The constitution in Article 243ZE under Part IX A, provides for the establishment of a Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC) to help with the development planning of the big metro areas.
Statement 1 is correct: The Constitution makes it mandatory for States to set up MPCs in areas with population of 10 lakh and above. MPC is required to prepare a draft development plan.
Statement 2 is correct: Although this is a **body related to urban local governance**, and is under **Part IX A**, **elected members from both urban local bodies and rural local bodies** (**only chairpersons** of **Panchayats** in that **metropolitan area**) form a **part of this committee**. Hence this statement is **correct.**
This has been done to provide **due representation to the interests and needs of the people** residing in **peri-urban and rural areas adjoining massive metropolitan areas**, who are often affected by the activities in the metropolitan area (traffic, Law & order, environmental issues, etc).

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Statement 3 is incorrect: The **constitution mentions** that the **main function of this committee** is to create **draft development plans** for the **metropolitan areas** by **combining municipal and panchayat development plans. The state legislature** may make provisions with respect to the following:
1) The composition of such committees;
2) The manner of election of members of such committees;
3) The representation in such committees of the Central government, state government and other organisations;
4) **The functions of such committees in relation to planning and coordination for the metropolitan area**; and
5) The manner of election of chairpersons of such committees.
Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth, 5th edition, Ch-39, Pg-39.4, 39.5
https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kozhikode/call-for-metropolitan-planning-committee/article28740041.ece

Q.25) Consider the following statements regarding 'Beating Retreat Ceremony':
1. The ceremony is organized every year on the next day of Independence Day Celebration.
2. The chief guest during the Beating Retreat Ceremony is the President of India.
3. The Beating Retreat Ceremony is unique and exclusive tradition of India.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1 only

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Union Minister of Science & Technology has said that Botlab Dynamics Private Limited, a start-up supported by Technology Development Board will light up the sky with 1000 Drones Light Show at 'Beating the Retreat Ceremony'
Statement 1 is incorrect: The Beating Retreat ceremony is organized **every year after the Republic Day Celebration** on January 29. The ceremony takes place at the Vijay Chowk, filling it with lights, music, and patriotism.
Statement 2 is correct: The Beating Retreat ceremony occasion is organised and held by the Indian Army, with the **President of India as the principal chief guest**. The programme is organized in front of Rashtrapati Bhawan on Raisina Road.
Statement 3 is incorrect: The ceremony is not exclusive to India. It has a long tradition across various countries. The **ceremony began in 17th century England**, when King James II ordered his troops to beat drums, lower flags and organize a parade to announce the end of a day of combat. The ceremony is currently held by Armed Forces in the **UK, US, Canada, New Zealand, Australia**, and India, among others.
Knowledge Base:
In India, the ceremony traces its origins to the **early 1950s**, when **Major Roberts of the Indian Army** indigenously developed the **unique ceremony of display by the massed bands.** Currently, it is played by bands from the **Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force, as well as Army pipe bands** and, beginning in 2016, a massed formation of bands from the Central Armed Police Forces and the Delhi Police.
Source: Union Minister says, start-up 'Botlab Dynamics' to light up the sky with 1000 Drones Light Show at 'Beating the Retreat Ceremony' -ForumIAS Blog
The history of the Beating Retreat ceremony - The Hindu
Explained: What Is Beating The Retreat Ceremony (indiatimes.com)

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Q.26) With reference to the composition of Panchayats, consider the following statements:
1. There is a reservation of seats for SC/STs only at the village and intermediate levels.
2. Reservation for backward classes for the post of chairperson is not mandatory at any level of Panchayats.
3. The reservation of both seats and the post of chairperson for women is mandatory at all levels.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992, gave constitutional status to Panchayati raj system (rural local governance). This introduced Part IX in the constitution which consists of some mandatory provisions with respect to Panchayats, such as compulsory establishment, periodic elections, reservations in composition, etc.
Statement 1 is incorrect: Article 243D of the constitution lays down that there will **compulsorily** be a **reservation of seats** for people from the **SC and ST communities** at **all the levels of Panchayats** - at **village, intermediate**, as well at **district level**. Hence this statement is **incorrect.**
This reservation is in **proportion to the population** of these communities to the total population of the area. This has been done to **improve political representation,** as well as **socio-economic empowerment** of these **vulnerable communities** starting from the grass root level.
Statement 2 is correct: As far as the **office of the Chairpersons of Panchayats** at various levels is concerned, the **constitution has not made any mandatory provisions** regarding **reservations for Backward Classes**. They have l**eft the decision to the respective state legislatures**, who shall **make provisions** in this regard in the **legislations through which they establish** Panchayats in the state. Also, **reservations for SC/ ST** for the **office of Chairperson of Panchayat**, at **any level, is not mandatory. It** is **optional**, and differs from state to state.
It must also be noted, that this is true in case of reservation of normal seats as well, as far as Backward Classes are concerned. It is solely dependent on the discretion of respective state legislatures. Also, in the case of SC/ST, the constitution has left the exact quantum of reservation to be provided in case of the office of Chairperson at each level to the state legislatures.
Statement 3 is correct: Article 243D of the **constitution itself** provides for r**eservation for women** in **Panchayats**. According to it, **at least** (state legislatures can provide for even more, but not less than) **1/3rd of all seat**s, as well as **posts of Chairpersons**, at e**ach level of Panchayats** are to be reserved for **women**. Hence this statement is **correct**.
This has been done to **improve political representatio**n, as well as **socio-economic empowerment** of **women** starting from the grass root level.
Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth, 5th edition, Ch-38, Pg-38.8

Q.27) Consider the following statements:
1. Maharashtra is the most urbanized state in India with more than half of the population living in urban areas.
2. In India, the Census Commission defines a metropolitan city as urban agglomeration having a population of over one million.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is incorrect: Goa is the most urbanised state with 62.17% of the population living in urban areas. But if one goes by geographical area and total population, Tamil Nadu is the most urbanised state. In Kerala, 47.72% of people live in urban areas and in **Maharashtra** 45.23%.
Among all the States and Union territories, the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union territory of Chandigarh are most urbanized with 97.5% and 97.25% urban population respectively.
Statement 2 is incorrect: In India, the Census Commission defines a **metropolitan city as urban agglomeration having a population of over four million**. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Pune, Surat and Nashik are those Indian cities that have over 4 million people.
Source: https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/10/india-megacities-by-2030-united-nations/
https://hmmcollege.ac.in/uploads/geo_13042020.pdf

Q.28) Which of the following items are included within the purview of the Municipalities under the Twelfth Schedule of the Indian constitution?
1. Planning for economic and social development
2. Safeguarding the interests of weaker sections of society
3. Technical training and vocational education
4. Slum improvement and upgradation
5. Implementation of land reforms
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2, 3 and 5 only
c) 1, 2 and 4 only
d) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Twelfth Schedule of the Indian constitution contains the powers, authority and responsibilities of Municipalities. This schedule contains 18 functional items placed within the purview of municipalities. Twelfth Schedule was added by the 74th Amendment Act of 1992.
Statement 1, 2 and 4 are correct: Twelfth Schedule of the Indian constitution contains following items:

1) Urban planning including town planning	7) Fire services	13) Promotion of cultural, educational and aesthetic aspects
2) Regulation of land use and construction of buildings	8) Urban forestry, protection of the environment and promotion of ecological aspects	14) Burials and burial grounds, cremations and cremation grounds and electric crematoriums

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3) **Planning for economic and social development**	**9) Safeguarding the interests of weaker sections of society**, including the handicapped and mentally retarded	15) Cattle ponds, prevention of cruelty to animals
4) Roads and bridges	**10) Slum improvement and upgradation**	16) Vital statistics including registration of births and deaths
5) Water supply for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes	11) Urban poverty alleviation	17) Public amenities including street lighting, parking lots, bus stops and Public conveniences
6) Public health, sanitation, conservancy and solid waste management	12) Provision of urban amenities and facilities such as parks, gardens, playgrounds	18) Regulation of slaughter houses and tanneries

Statement 3 and 5 are incorrect: The subject of land reforms and education including primary and secondary schools; technical training and vocational education are included in **11th Schedule and are not included under 12th Schedule.** 11th Schedule contains the provisions that **specify the powers, authority and responsibilities of Panchayats.** This schedule was added by the 73rd Amendment Act of 1992. It has 29 matters.
Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 39 Municipalities

Q.29) With reference to District Planning committee, consider the following statements
1. The constitution of India provided that every district India shall constitute a District Planning committee.
2. Members of the Lok Sabha and the State legislative Assembly are Specially invited permanent members of District Planning committee.
3. District Magistrate shall be appointed as the ex-officio secretary of the District Planning Committee.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is correct:
Articles 243ZD of the constitution of India, provided there shall be constituted in every district a District Planning committee. Its aim is to consolidate the plans Prepared by the Panchayats and the Municipalities in the district and to prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole.
Statement 2 is correct:
The District Planning committee of different districts shall consist of such number of members as may be specified by the state government by notification.
Specially invited permanent members of District Planning committee are -
(a) Such members of the Lok Sabha and the State legislative Assembly whose constituencies fall in that district;
(b) Member of the Rajya Sabha, registered as voter in the district.
(c) Adhyaksha of the Zila Parishad and the chairman / mayor of the Municipal Bodies shall also be permanent specially invited members on the condition that they have not been elected as member of the committee.

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Statement 3 is correct:
District Magistrate / Deputy Commissioner shall be the ex-officio secretary of the District Planning Committee. He /she will be responsible for preparing records of important matters to be laid before the Committee, for presenting the same, for issuing notices of decision and for doing causal ancillary functions;
Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 38 Panchayati Raj
http://www.nrcddp.org/DPC/District_Planning_Committee_Jharkhand.pdf

Q.30) With reference to 'e-DNA', consider the following statements:
1. It is an organismal DNA that is released from an organism into the environment.
2. It cannot be obtained from aquatic environment due to its dilution by hydrological processes.
3. It can be an effective tool for early detection of native and invasive species in the ecosystem.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 3 only
d) 2 and 3 only

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is correct: Environmental DNA (eDNA) is **organismal DNA** that can be found in the environment. Environmental DNA originates from **cellular material shed by organisms** (via skin, excrement, etc.) into aquatic or terrestrial environments that can be sampled and monitored using new molecular methods.
Statement 2 is incorrect: Environmental DNA **can be obtained from aquatic or terrestrial environments** that can be sampled and monitored using new molecular methods. In aquatic environments, eDNA is diluted and distributed by currents and other hydrological processes, but it **only lasts about 7–21 days**, depending on environmental conditions.
Statement 3 is correct: eDNA technology is important for the **early detection of invasive species as well as the detection of rare and cryptic species**. Detection of species using eDNA can improve biodiversity assessments and provide information about status, distribution, and habitat requirements for lesser-known species.
Application of eDNA methods for **invasive species** monitoring may include **periodically collecting water samples and screening them for several invasive species at once.**
Source: DNA from air may help identify, track animals in the wild: Studies -ForumIAS Blog
Environmental DNA (eDNA) | U.S. Geological Survey (usgs.gov)

Q.31) In the areas covered under the Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, what is the role/power of Gram Sabha?
1. Gram Sabha has the power to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas.
2. Gram Sabha has the ownership of minor forest produce.
3. Recommendation of Gram Sabha is required for granting prospecting licence or mining lease for any mineral in the Scheduled Areas.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

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Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Panchayat (Extension of the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 or PESA, was enacted by the Centre to ensure self-governance through gram sabhas for people living in scheduled areas. It legally recognizes the right of tribal communities, residents of the scheduled areas, to govern themselves through their own systems of self-government. It also acknowledges their traditional rights over natural resources.

Statement 1 is correct. Section 4(m)(iii) of PESA requires the State to enact laws for the purpose of empowering Gram Sabhas and Panchayats at the appropriate level "to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas and to take appropriate action to restore any unlawfully alienated land of a Scheduled Tribe".

Statement 2 is correct. Section 4(m)(ii) of PESA endows the Panchayats at the appropriate level and the Gram Sabha with the ownership of minor forest produce.

Statement 3 is *incorrect*. According to the provisions of the PESA Act, 1996 the recommendations of the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level shall be made mandatory prior to grant of prospecting licence or mining lease for **minor minerals (not any mineral)** in the Scheduled Areas.

Source) UPSC CSE 2012

Q.32) With reference to Town Area Committee, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is non-statutory body established by respective state governments.
2. It is always an entirely nominated body including the chairperson, who is nominated by District Judge.

Choose the correct answer using the options given below:

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Around eight types of urban local bodies are created in India for the administration of urban areas. Town Area Committee is among the those and it is set up for the administration of a small town. Features of the committee are:

Statement 1 is *incorrect* - A town area committee is **created by a separate act of a state legislature.** It is a semi-municipal authority and is entrusted with a limited number of civic functions like drainage, roads, street lighting, and conservancy. A notified area committee is established by a notification in the government gazette.

Statement 2 is *incorrect* - The composition, functions and other matters related to the Town Area Committee are governed by the act. **It may be wholly elected or wholly nominated by the state government or partly elected and partly nominated.** It is not necessary being entirely a nominated body. Notified Area Council is an entirely nominated body, that is, all the members of a notified area committee including the chairman are nominated by the state government.

Source: M Laxmikant – Chapter – 39 – Municipalities

Q.33) In opposition to enhancing the powers of panchayat, this national leader said-

"A population which is hidebound by caste; a population which is infected by ancient prejudices; a population which thinks that some are high and some are low – can it be expected to have the right notions even to discharge bare justice? Sir, I deny that proposition, and I submit that it is not proper to expect us to submit our life, and our liberty, and our property to the hands of these Pancha's."

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Which one of the following national leaders spoken words given in the above passage?
a) Mahatma Gandhi
b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
c) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
d) Jawahar Lal Nehru

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar felt that the faction and caste-ridden nature of rural society would defeat the noble purpose of local government at the rural level.

When the Bombay Legislative Council debated enhanced powers for panchas through a Village Panchayats Bill, **Ambedkar lashed out.** "A population which is hidebound by caste; a population which is infected by ancient prejudices; a population which flouts equality of status and is dominated by notions of gradations in life; a population which thinks that some are high and some are low – can it be expected to have the right notions even to discharge bare justice? Sir, I deny that proposition, and I submit that it is not proper to expect us to submit our life, and our liberty, and our property to the hands of these panchas."

Option a is incorrect: Mahatma Gandhi wanted the central government to have very limited powers. He **wanted villages to rule themselves the traditional way**, through sarpanches and panchas (village chiefs and councillors). He was a strong advocator of Panchayati Raj system.

Option b and d are incorrect: Both J L Nehru and Sardar Patel looked upon extreme localism as a threat to unity and integration of the nation. They recognized the inherent inequalities and injustices prevalent in the Indian villages.

Source: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/Swaminomics/ambedkar-vs-gandhi-the-risks-of-village-empowerment/
https://www.epw.in/engage/article/gandhi-nehru-and-ambedkar-three-formulations-real
https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/keps208.pdf

Q.34) With reference to 'Finances of Panchayati Raj in India', consider the following statements:
1. Union government provide grants to the Panchayats based on the recommendations of Finance Commission of India.
2. The internal resource generation at the Panchayat level is the major source of funds for Panchayats in India.
3. Panchayats cannot borrow money in the forms of loans.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The finances of Gram Panchayat come from both the state and the federal government. Grants from the Central Finance Commission are currently one of the most important sources of funds for Gram Panchayats. In addition, grants from state finance commissions are also available. Most Gram Panchayats have largely untapped revenue sources as well.

Statement 1 is correct: A major portion of Part IX of the Constitution deals with structural empowerment of the PRIs but the real strength in terms of both autonomy and efficiency of these institutions is dependent on their financial position (including their capacity to generate own resources). In general, Panchayats in

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our country receive funds in the following ways: (i) **Grants from the Union Government based on the recommendations of the Central Finance Commission as per Article 280 of the Constitution.** (ii) Devolution from the State Government based on the recommendations of the State Finance Commission as per Article 243-I. (iii) Loans / grants from the State Government. (iv) Programme-specific allocation under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Additional Central Assistance. (v) Internal Resource Generation (tax and non-tax).

Statement 2 is incorrect: Across the country, States have not given adequate attention to fiscal empowerment of the Panchayats. The Panchayats own resources are meager. Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are the states which are considered to be progressive in PRIs empowerment but even there, the Panchayats are heavily dependent on government grants. **Internal resource generation at the Panchayat level is weak.** This is partly due to a thin tax domain and partly due to Panchayats own reluctance in collecting revenue.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Loans can be obtained by local bodies from financial institutions for implementation of various schemes relating to Urban Development, Water Supply and Roads etc. **A Panchayat may borrow money as loans from state governments, and market borrowings.**

Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 38 Panchayati Raj

Q.35) Consider the following statements:

1. Wheat absorb moisture while paddy lose moisture after harvesting.
2. Farmers have to take a price cut on Minimum Support Price when selling wheat stocks below certain moisture limit.
3. Government recently decided to remove the moisture content limit while buying paddy crop.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Government of India's recent draft proposal proposes to change the moisture content limit for wheat and paddy. This has made farmers worried ahead of the rabi procurement season that begins April 2022.

Statement 1 is correct: **Moisture content** (MC) is the **weight of water** contained in paddy or wheat expressed in percent. The moisture content has been a sensitive issue for farmers. After harvesting, **wheat absorbs moisture while rice loses it.**

Statement 2 is correct: Currently, farmers have to take a **price cut on Minimum Support Price** (MSP) when selling **wheat stocks above the 12% moisture limit**. Stocks with above 14% moisture are rejected.

However, according to the proposed new rules, **the ideal moisture content in wheat may be reduced to 12% from 14%**. This means that wheat stocks with moisture content above 12% will not be procured even with a price cut.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Currently there is **no proposal** or decision from Government **to remove the moisture content limit** while selling paddy crop. However, in the proposals for the paddy, **permissible moisture content** has been reduced from 17% to 16%. Untimely rain ahead of procurement season and lack of sheltered storage space at the mandis makes it difficult for farmers to keep their stocks dry.

Source: Centre may reduce the moisture content limit for wheat, paddy. Why this will hurt farmers - ForumIAS Blog

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Q.36) Which of the following are the probable reasons behind the ineffective performance of Panchayats in India?
1. They do not accommodate the diverse sections of the village society.
2. The position of panchayats is subordinate to the bureaucracy at state level.
3. Parallel bodies have bypassed the role and responsibilities of Panchayats.
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 2 only
d) 3 only

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Even after conferring the constitutional status and protection through the 73rd Amendment Act (1992), the performance of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) has not been satisfactory and not up to the expected level. The various reasons for this sub-optimal performance are as follows
Statement 1 is *incorrect*: Panchayati Raj system in India has **accommodated various sections of society through reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes** in every panchayat (i.e., at all the three levels) in proportion of their population to the total population in the panchayat area. Further, the state legislature shall provide for the reservation of offices of chairperson in the panchayat at the village or any other level for the SCs and STs. It also provides for the reservation of not less than one-third of the **total number of seats for women** (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging the SCs and STs). This is not the reason for ineffective performance of Panchayats in India.
Statement 2 is correct: In some States, the Gram Panchayats have been placed in a position of subordination. Hence, the **Gram Panchayat Sarpanches have to spend extraordinary amount of time visiting Block Offices for funds and/or technical approval**. These interactions with the Block staff office distort the role of Sarpanches as elected representatives. Hence, the position of panchayats is subordinate to the bureaucracy at state level.
Statement 3 is correct: Parallel Bodies (PBs) are created for supposedly speedy implementation and greater accountability. However, there is little evidence to show that such PBs have avoided the evils including that of partisan politics, sharing of spoils, corruption and elite capture. Missions (in particular) often bypassing mainstream programmes, create disconnect, duality, and alienation between the existing and the new structures and functions. **PBs usurp the legitimate space of PRIs and demoralize the PRIs by virtue of their superior resource endowments**.
Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 38 Panchayati Raj

Q.37) With reference to Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996, consider the following statements:
1. It provided the Gram Sabha to protect common properties of the tribal communities based on their traditional systems.
2. The act also applies to the schedule areas of the Sixth schedule of the Indian Constitution.
3. The reservation of seats in the Scheduled Areas in every Panchayat should be in proportion to the population of the Scheduled caste and Scheduled tribe communities.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 1 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 3 only

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The provisions of Part IX of the constitution relating to the Panchayats are not applicable to the Fifth Schedule areas. However, the Parliament may extend these provisions to such areas, subject to such exceptions and modifications as it may specify. Under this provision, the Parliament has enacted the "**Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act", 1996**, popularly known as the PESA Act or the Extension Act.

Statement 1 is correct: PESA Act ensures: Gram sabha to protect the traditions, beliefs and culture of the tribal communities. Also, it provides that Local disputes to be resolved by the gram sabha, Gram sabha to **manage and protect common properties based on their traditional systems of management and protection**

Statement 2 is *incorrect*: The PESA Act the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the panchayats to the **fifth scheduled areas**. At present **ten states have Fifth Schedule Area**s. These are: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan. All ten states have enacted requisite compliance legislations by amending the respective Panchayati Raj Acts.

The four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram are included under 6th Schedule of Indian Constitution and PESA act is not applicable for these areas.

Statement 3 is correct: The reservation of seats in the Scheduled Areas in every Panchayat should be in proportion to the population of the communities for whom reservation is sought to be given under Part IX of the Constitution. Such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat. However, the reservation for the Scheduled Tribes shall not be less than one-half of the total number of seats. Further, **all seats of Chairpersons of Panchayats at all levels shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.**

Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 38 Panchayati Raj

https://www.mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/PESAAct1996_0.pdf

Q.38) Which of the following are the mandatory provisions under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992?

1. Constitution of a State Finance Commission after every five years.
2. Indirect elections to the post of chairperson of panchayats at the district levels
3. Giving representation to members of the Parliament in the panchayats

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 only
c) 2 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The 73rd Amendment Act was passed in 1992 and came into effect on 24th April 1993 which inserted Part IX consisting of Article 243 to 243-O, and the Eleventh Schedule enumerating 29 functional items. The Act gave certain powers to the state government to constitute gram panchayats at a local level and provide them with all the necessary assistance to operate as a unit of self-governance.

Statement 1 and 2 are correct: The compulsory (obligatory or mandatory) provisions of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (1992) or the Part IX of the Constitution are:

1) Organisation of Gram Sabha in a village or group of villages.
2) Establishment of panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels.

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3) Direct elections to all seats in panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels.
4) Indirect elections to the post of chairperson of panchayats at the intermediate and district levels.
5) 21 years to be the minimum age for contesting elections to panchayats.
6) Reservation of seats (both members and chairpersons) for SCs and STs in panchayats at all the three levels.
7) Reservation of one-third seats (both members and chairpersons) for women in panchayats at all the three levels.
8) Fixing tenure of five years for Panchayat at all levels and holding fresh elections within six months in the event of supersession of any Panchayat.
9) Establishment of a State Election Commission for conducting elections to the Panchayat.
10) Constitution of a State Finance Commission after every five years to review the financial position of the Panchayat.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Giving representation to members of the Parliament (both the Houses) and the state legislature (both the Houses) in the panchayats at different levels falling within their constituencies are the **voluntary provisions** under 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act.
Source: https://cbpbu.ac.in/userfiles/file/2020/STUDY_MAT/POL_SC/73rd%20and%2074th-converted.pdf

Q.39) A person can be disqualified from being a member of panchayat under which of the following circumstances?
1. If disqualified under any law for the time being in force for the purpose of elections to the legislature of the state concerned.
2. A person of 21 years old can be disqualified on the ground that he is less than 25 years of age.
3. If S/he is dismissed from the service of a local authority.
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
The provisions under **article 243F – Part IX** of the Indian Constitution states the disqualifications for Membership of Gram Panchayat. This ensures greater stability in village polity, participation of all sections of society, helps reduce corruption and non-development issues.
Statement 1 and 3 are correct: A person shall be **disqualified for being chosen** as or for being a member of panchayat if he is so disqualified, (a) **under any law for the time being in force** for the purpose of elections to the legislature of the state concerned, or (b) **under any law made by the state legislature.**
If he has been dismissed from the service of a local authority, it will be a ground of disqualification for being chosen as or for being a member of panchayat.
Statement 2 is incorrect: No person shall be disqualified on the ground that he is less than 25 years of age if he has attained the age of 21 years. All questions of disqualifications shall be referred to such authority as the state legislature determines.
Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 38 Panchayati Raj

Q.40) Consider the following statements regarding 'Bioenergy Crops':
1. These are crops that are grown only through bio-manure and without any application of chemical fertilizers.

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2. Recent studies have shown these crops are responsible for inducing heating effects that are leading to a net increase in air temperature.
3. Eucalyptus, miscanthus and switchgrass are some of the examples of Bioenergy crops.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 3 only

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is incorrect.
Bioenergy crops are defined as **any plant material used to produce bioenergy** and not the crops that can be grown through the usage of bio-manure. Bioenergy crops have the capacity to produce large volumes of biomass, high energy potential and can be grown in marginal soils.
Statement 2 is incorrect.
Researchers have found that the **global air temperature decreases** by 0.03~0.08 °C with strong regional contrasts and inter-annual variability after 50 years of **large-scale bioenergy crop cultivation.** These crops exert strong regional biophysical effects, leading to a **global net change in air temperature of −0.08 °C ~ +0.05 °C.** According to a study, converting annual crops to perennial **bioenergy crops can induce a cooling effect** on the areas where they are cultivated.
Statement 3 is correct.
Eucalyptus, poplar, willow, miscanthus and switchgrass are some of the examples of bioenergy crops. Researchers have also demonstrated the **importance of the bioenergy crop type choice.** For example, cultivating eucalypt shows generally cooling effects that are more robust than if switchgrass is used as the main bioenergy crop, implying that eucalypt is superior to switchgrass in cooling the lands biophysically.
Source: Bioenergy crops create cooling effect on cultivated areas: Study -ForumIAS Blog

Q.41) If a particular area is brought under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India, which one of the following statements best reflects the consequence of it?
a) This would prevent the transfer of land of tribal people to non-tribal people.
b) This would create a local self- governing body in that area.
c) This would convert that area into a Union Territory.
d) The State having such areas would be declare a Special Category State.

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
Option a is correct. The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution **deals with the administration and control of Scheduled Areas as well as of Scheduled Tribes residing in any State other than the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram**.
Governor can make regulations for the peace and good government of a scheduled area after consulting the tribe's advisory council. Such regulations may prohibit or **restrict the transfer of land by tribal to non-tribal members** or among members of the scheduled tribes, regulate the allotment of land to members of the scheduled tribes.
Option b is incorrect. According to the provisions of Paragraph 4, under Article 244(1) of Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India, the Tribes Advisory Councils (TAC) **shall be established in each State having**

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Scheduled Areas therein and, if the President so directs, also in any State having Scheduled Tribes but not Scheduled Areas. Tribal advisory council is an advisory body, not a governing body.
Option c is incorrect. Bringing any particular area under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India does not convert the area into a Union Territory.
Option d is incorrect. Bringing any particular area under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India does not get declared as a Special Category State.
Source: UPSC CSE 2022

Q.42) Under 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, a panchayat constituted upon the dissolution of a panchayat before the expiration of its duration continues for-
a) The full period of five years from the date of announcement of the election results
b) Only for the remainder of the period for which the dissolved panchayat would have continued
c) Six months or less to hold any election for constituting the new panchayat for such period.
d) The period decided by the state legislature in consultation with State Election Commission

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
The **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act** provides for a **five-year term of office** to the panchayat at every level. However, it can be dissolved before the completion of its term. Further, fresh elections to constitute a panchayat shall be completed (a) before the expiry of its duration of five years; or (b) in case of dissolution, before the expiry of a period of six months from the date of its dissolution.
A **panchayat constituted upon the dissolution of a panchayat** before the expiration of its duration shall continue **only for the remainder of the period for which the dissolved panchayat would have continued** had it not been so dissolved. In other words, a panchayat reconstituted after **premature dissolution does not enjoy the full period of five years** but remains in office only for the remainder of the period.
Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 38 Panchayati Raj

Q.43) With reference to 'Evolution of Urban bodies in India', consider the following statements:
1. The Calcutta Municipal Corporation was the first municipal corporation to be set up in India.
2. Lord Ripon's Resolution of Local Self-Government introduced a two-tier system of local governance at municipality level.
3. Under the Government of India Act of 1919, local self-government became a reserved subject under the direct charge of Governor.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 is very important for the urban local bodies. This Constitutional Amendment Act recognized urban local bodies (ULBs) as the third tier of urban government by assigning them specific civic functions. The origins of urban local bodies in India can be traced back to the early days of British rule, when the company administration was responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads, irrigation, and schools among other things.
Statement 1 is incorrect: The **first municipal corporation in India was established in Madras** in 1687 as a result of a **Charter Act passed by James II**, the British monarch at the time. Municipal governance in India

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was first introduced in 1687 when the Madras Municipal Corporation was formed, followed by the creation of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation and the Bombay Municipal Corporation in 1726.

Statement 2 is correct: In 1882, **Lord Ripon's Resolution of Local Self-Government** created the outline and structure of municipal governance in India. It introduced a **two-tier system of governance at municipal level** to increase governance efficiency through decentralisation of functions. According to Lord Ripon's Resolution of Local Bodies in 1882, district boards and local boards were formed. Such boards in rural areas were known as 'taluk' or 'tehsil'.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Under the dyarchical scheme introduced in the provinces by Government of India Act of 1919, local self-government became a transferred subject under the charge of responsible Indian minster.

Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/59174/1/Unit3.pdf

Laxmikanth Chapter 39 Municipalities

Q.44) Under 74th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992, which of the following persons can be provided representation in a municipality?

1. The members of the state legislative assembly representing constituencies that comprise, wholly or partly, the municipal area.
2. Members of Lok Sabha elected from any constituency within the state in which the municipality is located.
3. Persons having special knowledge or experience in municipal administration
4. The members of the state legislative council registered as electors within the municipal area

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

a) 1 and 4 only
b) 1, 2 and 3 only
c) 1, 3 and 4 only
d) 2 and 3 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

According to the **74th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992**, the members of a municipality shall be elected directly by the people of the municipal area. For this purpose, each municipal area shall be divided into territorial constituencies to be known as wards. The state legislature may provide the manner of election of the chairperson of a municipality.

Statement 1, 3 and 4 are correct & Statement 2 is incorrect: 74th Constitutional Amendment Act provide for the representation of the following persons in a municipality:

1) **Persons having special knowledge or experience in municipal administration** without the right to vote in the meetings of municipality.
2) The **members of the Lok Sabha** and the **state legislative assembly representing constituencies that comprise wholly or partly the municipal area.**
3) The members of the Rajya Sabha and the **state legislative council registered** as electors within the municipal area.
4) The **chairpersons of committees** (other than wards committees).

Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 39 Municipalities

Q.45) Consider the following statements:

1. The responsibility for safety and security of the Prime Minister of India lies with Special Protection Group (SPG).

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2. The 'Blue Book' is issued by Ministry of Defense that contains detailed instructions for security of Prime Minister during visits to the states.
3. The local police is entrusted to take a final decision regarding the arrangements for the security of PM's states visit.
Which of the statements given above is/are **incorrect**?
a) 3 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
The Ministry of Home Affairs has sought a report after the Prime Minister was trapped on a flyover for 20 minutes by protesters in Punjab in what is being reported as a serious security lapse.
Statement 1 is correct.
The **Special Protection Group** (SPG) is responsible for the safety and security of the Prime Minister. The Special Protection Group (SPG) is an agency of the Government of India whose sole responsibility is protecting the Prime Minister of India. It was **formed in 1988 by an Act of the Parliament of India.** The SPG protects the Prime Minister at all times both in India and abroad, as well as the Prime Minister's immediate family members residing with him/her at his/her official residence.
Statement 2 is incorrect.
For visits to the states, the SPG follows the instructions as stated in the 'Blue Book'. The instructions in the '**Blue Book** 'are issued by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**. The Blue Book mandates that three days before any visit by the prime minister, the SPG holds an Advance Security meeting with everyone involved in securing the event, including Intelligence Bureau officials in the concerned state, state police officials and the concerned district magistrate.
Statement 3 is incorrect.
At Advance Security Meeting, everything, including the smallest of details, is discussed. The meeting discusses the PM's travel, how he will be escorted and decisions are taken along with the inputs of the central and local intelligence.
Central intelligence agencies are responsible for providing inputs about any threat. However, it is the **Special Protection Group (not Local Police) that takes the final call on how the security is to be arranged**. The SPG never allows the PM's movement until the local police give the go-ahead. State police are also supposed to conduct anti-sabotage checks and secure the route.
Source: Explained: How the Prime Minister's security is planned -ForumIAS Blog

Q.46) Consider the following statements regarding 74th Amendment Act of 1992:
1. The act provides for the constitution of Ward Committees in all municipalities with a population of 3 lakhs or more.
2. The maintenance of the accounts of the municipalities and other audit shall be done according to the guidelines of the state finance commission.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

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Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

74th Amendment Act of 1992 has added a new Part IX-A to the Constitution of India. This part is entitled as 'The Municipalities' and consists of provisions from Articles 243-P to 243-ZG. The act gave constitutional status to the municipalities. It has brought them under the purview of justiciable part of the Constitution.

Statement 1 is correct: 74th Amendment Act of 1992 provides for constitution of Ward Committees in all municipalities with a population of 3 lakhs or more.

Statement 2 is incorrect: T**he maintenance of the accounts of the municipalities and other audit shall be done in accordance with the provisions in the State law**. The State Legislatures will be free to make appropriate provisions in this regard depending upon the local needs and institutional framework available for this purpose.

Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 39 Municipalities

Q.47) With reference to 'Central Council of Local Government', consider the following statements:

1. It was constituted in 1993 as an attached body of Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
2. The council works as an advisory body dealing with matters of urban local government only.
3. It performs the functions of making proposals for legislation with regard to local government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Central Council of Local Government was **set up in 1954**. It was **constituted under Article 263** of the Constitution of India by an **order of the President of India**. Originally, it was known as the Central Council of Local Self-Government. However, the term 'self-government' was found to be superfluous and hence was replaced by the term 'government' in the 1980s.

Statement 2 is correct: The Council is an **advisory body**. It consists of the Minister for Urban Development in the Government of India and the ministers for local self-government in states. The union minister acts as the Chairman of the Council. Till 1958, it dealt with both urban as well as rural local governments, but **after 1958 it has been dealing with matters of urban local government only.**

Statement 3 is correct: The **Council performs the following functions** with regard to local government: (i) Considering and recommending the policy matters (ii) **Making proposals for legislation** (iii) Examining the possibility of cooperation between the Centre and the states (iv) Drawing up a common programme of action (v) Recommending Central financial assistance (vi) Reviewing the work done by the local bodies with the Central financial assistance

Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 39 Municipalities

Q.48) Why the phrase 'Union of States' is preferred over 'Federation of States' for India in the Constitution?

1. Unlike American Federation, the Indian Federation is not the result of an agreement among the states.
2. Indian states have no right to secede from the federation.
3. In order to ensure the territorial integrity of the Indian states.

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
Article 1 describes India that is, Bharat as a 'Union of States' rather than a 'Federation of States'. This provision deals with name of the country and the type of polity.
Statement 1 is correct: Although the Constitution of India is federal in structure Indian country is described as 'Union'. According to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the phrase 'Union of States' has been preferred to Federation of States because **the Indian Federation is not the result of an agreement among the states like the American Federation.**
Statement 2 is correct: The Indian states have no right to secede from the federation. Though the country and the people may be divided into different States for convenience of administration, the country is one integrated whole, its people a single people, living under a single imperium derived from a single source.
Statement 3 is *incorrect*: Indian states are not guaranteed the territorial integrity, because Union can redraw boundaries of a state or create a new state out of an existing one even without the consent of the state. And India is often said as Indestructible unio of destructible units.
Source: https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-1429-indestructible-union-of-destructible-states.html
Indian polity by M Laxmikanth 6th edition pdf. Chapter name- Union and its territory. Page no-140 and 139.

Q.49) Using the powers enshrined in Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution of India, the Parliament can do which of the following?
1. Admit new territories as new state of India.
2. Split or merge existing Indian states.
3. Transfer and exchange of territories to neighboring countries.
4. Alter the names and boundaries of existing Indian States.
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 1, 2 and 4 only
c) 1, 3 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is correct: Article 2 of Indian constitution empowers the Parliament to admit new states on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit into the Union of India. Article 2 grants two powers to the Parliament:
1) **The power to admit into the Union of India new states (Statement 1 is correct)**
2) **The power to establish new states.**
The first refers to the admission of states which are already in existence, while the second refers to the establishment of states which were not in existence before.
Statement 2 is correct: Article 3 of Indian constitution authorizes the Parliament to:
1) Form a new state by separation of territory from any state or by uniting two or more states or parts of states or by uniting any territory to a part of any state. **(Statement 2 is correct)**

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2) **Increase the area of any state**
3) **Diminish the area of any state**
4) Alter the boundaries of any state
5) Alter the name of any state. **(Statement 4 is correct)**

Statement 3 is incorrect: Transfer and exchange of territories to neighboring countries is not the subject matter or either article 2 or 3. These matters are dealt with the help of different constitutional amendments. The supreme court has held that the power of Parliament to diminish the area of a State (under Article 3) does not cover the cession of Indian territory to a foreign country. Indian territory can be ceded to a foreign state only by amending the Constitution Under Article 368. Consequently, the 9th Constitutional Amendment Act (1960) was enacted to transfer the said Berubari Union to Pakistan (Berubari Union case 1960).

Source: Indian polity by M Laxmikanth 6th edition pdf. Chapter name- Union and its territory. Page no-140 and 141.

Q.50) Consider the following statements regarding '2 Vs 2 Agri-Market Access Issues':

1. It is deal formed under the plurilateral agreement of World Trade Organization for two most important crops.
2. Under this deal, two agri-products will be exported to another country with two agri-products being imported from that country.
3. Recently, India and Russia have decided to sign framework agreement for implementing the "2 Vs 2 Agri-Market Access Issues".

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: 2 Vs 2 Agri-Market Access Issues' is a **bilateral agreement** (not under WTO) by two countries decided by their own **individual policy preference and mutual understanding**. It is **not mentioned under any agreement of World Trade Organisation.**

Statement 2 is correct: Under 2 Vs 2 Agri-Market Access Issues, **two Agricultural Products** from India will be **exported to the US**. Similarly, two American products will be **imported to India.**

From the Indian Side, **Indian mangoes & pomegranate** have been chosen for **export to the USA** while the **US will export cherries and Alfalfa hay** to India.

Statement 3 is incorrect: In accordance with the discussions at the 12th India – USA trade policy forum meeting, **India and the United States** have signed the framework agreement for implementing the "2 Vs 2 Agri-Market Access Issues".

Source: Indo US Trade- Commerce gets a fillip with improving Agri Market Access -ForumIAS Blog

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